

In 1972, Congress amended the Higher Education Act by creating the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant to provide direct financial aid to low-income students so they could have the same access to higher education and opportunity for success as their higher income peers.

The program was later named the Pell grant for its original sponsor, Senator Pell, Democrat from Rhode Island. The original bill was signed into law by Republican President Richard Nixon, and the program has maintained this original bipartisan support over the last 50 years.

To date, more than 80 million students have received a Pell grant to go to college since the program was created. Currently, nearly 7 million students are going to college with a Pell grant, or about 40 percent of undergraduate students. In my district in the great city of Philadelphia, nearly 22,000 students receive \$90.5 million to pursue their higher education goals.

The Federal investment in Pell grants is targeted to students with demonstrated financial need, students whose families have incomes of \$40,000 or less. The investment pays off by increasing college completion and economic mobility.

On the 50-year anniversary of the Pell Grant Program, I encourage the United States to celebrate national Pell grant day by recognizing the current students and successful graduates who have benefited from the program by telling their student success stories and encouraging the same access for future students, demonstrating the importance of what the Pell grant has meant.

The Pell grant is significant to the future of this country, and it is important that we all stand up for this program that has been valuable to our young people for the future, no matter what side of the aisle we are on.

#### THE PERILS OF EXPERTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, we all know the tale of "The Emperor's New Clothes." Gifters convince an emperor that they are expert tailors who weave a cloth so fine that only the virtuous can see it. The emperor wraps himself in nothing and parades the streets as all the townspeople compete to signal their own virtue by proclaiming how beautiful the material is, even though their own common sense tells them otherwise. This scheme is successful until a little boy who knows better states the obvious.

For 2 years now, we were told by the experts that they could stop COVID-19 if everyone did exactly as they commanded. I am science, as one put it. They quashed debate within the medical community and ridiculed, censored, and fired any dissenters.

Looking back, we can clearly see what a self-destructive folly they produced. Study after study now confirms the obvious, that the mask mandate, school closures, home detention orders, and business closures had virtually no impact on the virus. But they did appalling damage to the economy, seriously harmed children in ways we are still cataloging, and cost untold lives due to suicides, drug and alcohol overdoses, delayed health screenings and treatments, and poverty-related deaths.

This recent, tragic experience should warn us all to be much more skeptical of surrendering common sense to so-called experts and of suppressing free debate over what science actually is telling us, which brings us to the Democrats' ongoing and escalating war on fossil fuels.

The road they have placed us on leads to a bleak future of unaffordable energy, rolling blackouts, empty shelves, and increasingly brutal rationing of every watt of electricity and drop of gasoline that we once took for granted.

Gasoline prices are already the highest ever seen in this country as we have discouraged production. Electricity prices are skyrocketing, pushed by the crushing cost of renewables. Utilities across the country are now warning of summer blackouts because renewable mandates have destabilized the electricity grid.

Joe Biden and the Democrats promised to wage war on fossil fuels, and they have succeeded. On his first day in office, he canceled the Keystone pipeline, which today should have been completed and delivering 830,000 barrels of crude oil every day into American markets. He canceled oil and gas exploration on Federal lands. Just last month, he withdrew 1 million acres of land from exploration and production in oil-rich Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico.

And he blames Vladimir Putin? Under the progrowth policies of the Trump administration, America didn't need Putin's oil. We were energy independent for the first time in our lifetimes. We were producing more oil than Russia and even Saudi Arabia. The day the Democrats took office, gasoline was averaging \$2.39 a gallon.

Today's sky-high fuel prices are aggravating supply chain breakdowns and adding to consumer prices. Acreage once devoted to growing corn for food is now used to produce ethanol, which requires trading an entire acre of corn to produce just 550 gallons of ethanol.

The irony is, at a time when these Green New Deal policies can't guarantee enough electricity to keep the lights on this summer at any price, these Democrat elitists are telling families to buy electric cars. Where do they think the electricity for their electric cars comes from? Eighty percent comes from fossil fuels that they are ruthlessly shutting down.

The excuse for all of this, of course, is to stop global warming, but they

cannot account for why it is that there have been periods throughout paleo history when temperatures have been much higher and also much lower than they are today. Nor do they account for the infinitely more powerful natural forces that shape our constantly changing climate.

The blind reliance on handpicked experts and the suppression of dissent in our approach to COVID cost lives and destroyed the most prosperous economic expansion in our lifetimes. But its excesses pale in comparison to what the green left is now doing to our society. The pain and damage we are feeling today is just the first bitter taste of what is to come if they prevail.

Of one thing we can be certain: Whether or not we destroy our Nation's prosperity by continuing the Democrats' war on fossil fuels, the Earth will continue to warm and cool, as it has for billions of years. The only question we can answer is whether ours will be a future of abundance or scarcity, prosperity or poverty, comfort or misery.

#### FAREWELL TO JULIE NICKSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge my chief of staff, Julie Little Nickson, who, after 22 years of service in the House and 20 years in my office, will soon be departing the Hill.

Let me take a moment to acknowledge Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR, who Julie worked for prior to coming to my office and for her gracious help with Julie's transition to my office.

Julie joined my staff in 2002 and quickly distinguished herself as a skilled manager and leader of Team Lee. She undoubtedly got to know many district constituents and hit the ground running.

Her keen understanding of the intersection of policy, politics, and procedure has helped drive so many accomplishments through the decades. She has also ensured that my constituents understand the relationship between our work in Washington, D.C., and their daily lives.

From her work advancing my efforts as coauthor of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, back in 2003 to the development and enactment of the historic American Women Quarters act in 2020, Julie has been the strategic guiding force propelling my agenda. She makes sure that the inclusion of staff is prominent in everything I do and that staff is recognized and is central to her work.

She has been the key and steady leader of my work to prevent the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Of course, that work grew and expanded to include numerous efforts to end our forever wars and rein in unchecked executive war powers, including my work to repeal the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs.

As my chief of staff during my time as both the chair of the CPC and later when I chaired the Congressional Black Caucus in 2009 and 2010, Julie helped build coalitions and advanced our policy and communications agenda forward. This was really not an easy task, but as always, she rose to the occasion.

Her two decades of appropriations experience has helped me deliver significant resources to my congressional district over the years, including from major infrastructure and transit projects, critical research and healthcare funding, and so many projects that have helped improve the lives of my constituents.

Her knowledge of both domestic and international Federal spending programs and policies has helped me champion and support the growth of vital human needs programs along with domestic and international health and development.

As a manager, Julie has always led by example with her deep commitment and mission-driven approach to the work. She has helped and led, shaped, and developed numerous staff, interns, and many fellows over the years, and they have soared in their professions and what they do after they leave my office.

In a very determined yet congenial way, she has made sure my district staff and D.C. staff work together as one seamless staff, reflecting the values and commitment to public service and constituent casework as Team Lee.

I have had the privilege to know Julie through many phases of her life. When she came to my office, she was single with no children. She got married to a wonderful man, Mike Nickson. Later, when she became pregnant, we were really all happy for her and Mike but wondered when she would stop working. She worked until the last minute, and we all were delighted that she had a beautiful daughter, Cate, who will turn 16 next month.

Cate has become a progressive, free-spirited young lady. Of course, Cate spent many years in my office through the years and developed a keen sense of social justice through watching and listening to her mother as she executed our agenda for the people.

As the daughter of Sandra and Harell Little, who instilled such a strong commitment to public service, Julie has been a caring and loving daughter and has always demonstrated an amazing work-life balance. I thank her parents for raising such a brilliant and passionate daughter.

As Julie enters her next phase of life, she will now work directly to save lives as a representative of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. She has always been about life-affirming efforts, and no doubt she will continue with her life's mission as she has answered God's call for this next chapter of her life.

We wish her good luck. We wish her God's blessings.

And just a reminder, Julie, that once a member of Team Lee, always a member of Team Lee.

#### CORRECTING AN EGREGIOUS MISTAKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, almost 50 years ago, the Supreme Court incorrectly decided that the right to end an unborn child's life existed in the U.S. Constitution. On that day, the United States became one of only six countries that allow abortion on demand throughout the entirety of pregnancy, putting us in the same category as Communist China and North Korea.

Now, almost 50 years later, we might be on the precipice of the Court correcting their egregious mistake. Unfortunately, due to the actions of a rogue actor with no regard for the laws or institutions of our country, Justices must withstand attempts to dissuade them from changing that ruling. Inexcusably, those attempts to intimidate the High Court's opinion have even turned violent.

In fact, since that rogue actor, who I believe broke the law and should be held accountable to the full extent of the law, leaked Justice Alito's draft opinion on *Dobbs v. Jackson*, a fence had to be constructed outside the Court to prevent attempts from left-wing agitators to "burn it down."

There was also a reported attempt to assassinate Justice Kavanaugh, which was thankfully foiled by our brave law enforcement officers.

As we are all surely aware, anti-life demonstrators have held protests for weeks outside the homes of Justice Clarence Thomas, Amy Coney Barrett, and Brett Kavanaugh, which is a direct violation of 18 U.S.C. 1507.

Instead of breaking up these illegal demonstrations and putting an end to the intimidation and mob rule so prevalent on the left these days, President Biden's Justice Department has allowed them to proceed unabated.

This, in my mind, sounds like an endorsement of lawlessness or at least a two-tiered justice system. This administration doesn't seem interested in enforcing laws that aren't politically expedient, whether it is at the southern border or elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that I am 100 percent pro-life. I signed an amicus brief in support of overturning *Roe v. Wade*, and I remain hopeful that the Supreme Court will, indeed, finally overturn it. The number of lives lost since *Roe v. Wade* was wrongly decided is truly unfathomable. Countless lives have been lost that will never be granted the privilege to walk on God's Earth with those listening to this speech today.

For years, we have prayed. Finally, those prayers may potentially be answered.

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If so, that does not mean our work is done. While the power to legislate with regard to abortion policy will be returned to the legislative bodies where our Founders intended such power to reside, much work remains at every level of government—State, local, and Federal—to ensure Progressives don't pass legislation that provides for taxpayer-funded abortions, something that polls show 58 percent of Americans do not support.

I promise to work day in and day out to ensure that every child is guaranteed the same right to life we all enjoy today. I will be a voice for the voiceless throughout the remaining time I have in Congress and even well after, much like my time before I arrived here in Washington. Because after all, if there is no life, there is no liberty or pursuit of happiness.

#### WE MUST REPEAL THE WEP AND GPO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of older Americans in my district to call for the repeal of the windfall elimination provision and the government pension offset.

For far too long, the WEP and GPO provisions have wrongfully penalized our Nation's public servants who have paid into Social Security by working second or even third jobs. That means that public servants in my district, like Fran, a retired schoolteacher from San Jacinto, are seeing their Social Security cut because of bureaucratic red tape. She wrote to me and told me that her Social Security benefits have been reduced by \$500 per month. Fran deserves better.

Our Nation's retired teachers, police officers, and firefighters deserve better, too. After a lifetime of hard work and paying into Social Security, there is no justification for them to miss out on their earned income in their golden years. We have an obligation, a responsibility, to take care of them and ensure they receive the benefits that they have earned through years of hard work.

We must pass the Social Security 2100 Act to finally eliminate the WEP and GPO provisions, strengthen Social Security, and give our Nation's seniors a much-needed increase in benefits. This repeal is long overdue. Our seniors cannot afford to wait any longer for the fairness, relief, and peace of mind that they deserve.

#### IN SUPPORT OF THE FARM WORKFORCE MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I rise today to call on the Senate to stand with our Nation's farmworkers and pass H.R. 1603, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, immediately.

Yesterday, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus brought together over 20